

William Mercuri

283255

Feb 20, 2019

Subject: Petition Against the Duke Energy Rate Increase

Dear Commissioners:

As a Duke Energy electric customer, I encourage you to closely examine the Duke Energy electric rate proposal (2018-319-e) when it comes before you. Specifically, I am concerned that:

Duke Energy's proposal to increase the basic facilities charge, a fixed cost from \$8.29 to over \$28. This would make this mandatory fee one of the highest in the country and much higher than the other investor-owned utility in South Carolina which recently lowered its fixed cost.

The increase in this mandatory fee takes away customer control over my energy bill robs me of the full benefit of energy conservation efforts. It is important that you protect older consumers who may live on a fixed income.

I go to great lengths to conserve energy. My limited income makes it a priority to keep my energy bills low. An additional \$336 per year is a very significant increase - on top of all the other increases, such as health insurance, auto and home owner insurance, and property taxes, to name a few. Wage increases do not keep up with all of these other increases. Enough is enough. I don't mind paying for what I use, but I'm tired of paying fees when I don't even know the reason for the fee. And TRIPLE the current amount?? Sorry, count me out!

Sincerely,
William Mercuri

MAIL / DMS
PSC SC

MAR 13 2019

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